

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically performing instant messaging actions comprising the steps of:

displaying a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service;

selecting at least one subscriber ~~a group of subscribers~~ in an inactive state from the list of subscribers in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;

specifying a particular type of inactive state for each selected subscriber;

displaying in the graphical user interface the selected subscriber ~~subscribers in the selected group~~ in a visually distinctive manner so ~~that a user can~~ as to identify the subscriber ~~subscribers~~ being monitored for a state change, wherein the visually distinctive manner includes at least one of a distinctive icon, a distinctive font, a distinctive font color, and a distinctive background color;

displaying in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when a subscriber in the selected group subscriber becomes active, wherein the options of action are configurable via the graphical user interface;

designating at least one action from the options of action for each specified type of inactive state via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber ~~in the group~~ when the subscriber's state changes from the specified type of inactive state to an active state;

monitoring a state change for each selected subscriber ~~in the selected group~~;
automatically detecting a state change of the selected subscriber ~~at least one of~~
~~said subscribers in said group~~; and
automatically executing said designated action associated with said ~~at least one~~
subscriber responsive to said detecting step.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said action is an instant messaging initiation action that initiates an instant messaging session between the user and said at least one subscriber.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said action includes at least one action selected from the group consisting of a notification action, a prompting action, and a message conveyance action.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein all steps are performed by said instant messaging client.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said instant messaging client includes a Lotus Sametime (TM) type client.

6-37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

displaying a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an

instant messaging service;

selecting at least one subscriber ~~a group of subscribers~~ in an inactive state from the list of subscribers in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;

specifying a particular type of inactive state for each selected subscriber;

displaying in the graphical user interface the selected subscriber ~~subscribers in the selected group~~ in a visually distinctive manner so ~~that a user can~~ as to identify the subscriber ~~subscribers~~ being monitored for a state change, wherein the visually distinctive manner includes at least one of a distinctive icon, a distinctive font, a distinctive font color, and a distinctive background color;

displaying in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when a ~~subscriber in the selected group~~ subscriber becomes active, wherein the options of action are configurable via the graphical user interface;

designating at least one action from the options of action for each specified type of inactive state via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber ~~in the group~~ when the subscriber's state changes from the specified type of inactive state to an active state;

monitoring a state change for each selected subscriber ~~in the selected group;~~

automatically detecting a state change of the selected subscriber ~~at least one of said subscribers in said group;~~ and

automatically executing said designated action associated with said ~~at least one~~ subscriber responsive to said detecting step.

39. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein said action is an instant messaging initiation action that initiates an instant messaging session

between the user and said subscriber.

40. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein said action includes at least one action selected from the group consisting of a notification action, a prompting action, and a message conveyance action.

41. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein all steps are performed by said instant messaging client.

42. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 41, wherein said instant messaging client includes a Lotus Sametime.TM. type client.

43-44. (Cancelled).

45. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

at least one memory; and

at least one processor configured to:

display a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service;

select at least one subscriber in an inactive state from the list of subscribers in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;

specify a particular type of inactive state for each selected subscriber;

display in the graphical user interface the selected subscriber in a visually distinctive manner so as to identify the subscriber being monitored for a state

change, wherein the visually distinctive manner includes at least one of a distinctive icon, a distinctive font, a distinctive font color, and a distinctive background color;

display in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when the selected subscriber becomes active, wherein the options of action are configurable via the graphical user interface;

designate at least one action from the options of action for each specified type of inactive state via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber when the subscriber's state changes from the specified type of inactive state to an active state;

monitor a state change for each selected subscriber;

automatically detect a state change of the selected subscriber; and

automatically execute said designated action associated with said subscriber responsive to said detecting step

~~means for displaying a user-selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service;~~

~~means for selecting a group of subscribers in an inactive state from the list in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;~~

~~means for displaying in the graphical user interface the subscribers in the selected group in a visually distinctive manner so that a user can identify the subscribers being monitored for a state change;~~

~~means for displaying in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when a subscriber in the selected group becomes active;~~

~~means for designating at least one action from the options of action for each type of inactive state via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber in the group when the subscriber's state changes from the type of inactive state to an active state;~~

~~means for monitoring a state change for each subscriber in the selected group;~~

~~means for automatically detecting a state change of at least one of said subscribers in said group; and~~

~~means for automatically executing said designated action associated with said at least one subscriber responsive to said detecting step.~~